

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 AF-10
ARA-10 EA-10 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SES-02 SAA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 STR-07 COME-00 LAB-04
OES-09 AGRE-00 EB-08 /162 W
-----041658 311111Z /16

R 310653Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7484

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3334

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 AMMAN 07000

VIENNA FOR USREP/UNIDO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNRWA, XF,JO

SUBJECT: UNRWA ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING (ADCOMM),

- AUGUST 29, 1978

REF: STATE 217670

SUMMARY: ADCOM MEETING WAS MUCH LESS CONTENTIOUS IN TONE
THAN WE HAD EXPECTED. ARABS, WHILE FLATLY REJECTING BOTH
HEADQUARTERS MOVE TO VIENNA AND COMMISSIONER GENERAL (CG)
PLANS FOR FURTHER CUTS IN RATIONS AND ACTIVITIES, DID SO IN
PRO FORMA MANNER. CG TOLD MEETING THAT WHILE HE WISHED TO
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BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN FULL RANGE OF SERVICES, HE WOULD HAVE
TO MAKE THOSE REDUCTIONS HE THOUGHT APPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF
AGENCY'S FINANCIAL SITUATION. ARABS, IN CALLING FOR MOVE
OF HEADQUARTERS BACK TO ME AREA FROM VIENNA, DID NOT PRESS
FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION. U.S. DEL'S SUGGESTION FOR CONSIDER-
ATION OF MOVE BY UNRWA WORKING GROUP NOT PICKED UP BY
OTHER DELS, ALTHOUGH CG SAID HE DID NOT OBJECT TO IDEA.

END SUMMARY.

1. ANNUAL UNRWA ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING (ADCOMM) WAS HELD IN AMMAN AUGUST 29. ALL ADCOMM MEMBERS WERE REPRESENTED. MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY UK CHARGE JOHN BROADLEY. TONE OF MEETING WAS RESTRAINED AND FRIENDLY IN SPITE OF HIGH LEVEL OF RHETORIC ARABS HAVE BEEN MAINTAINING OVER MOVE OF AGENCY'S HEADQUARTERS TO VIENNA. (IN DRAFTING COMMITTEE FOR ADCOMM LETTER TO CG ARAB REP EVEN SUGGESTED COMMENDING CG FOR HIS PERFORMANCE OVER PAST YEAR). SYRIANS, HOWEVER, MADE COUPLE OF ILL TEMPERED NIPS AT CG'S ANKLES OVER PROPOSED 1979 REDUCTION IN FLOUR RATIONS, AND EGYPTIANS TOOK HIM TO TASK FOR NOT CONSULTING WITH GOE ON HEADQUARTERS MOVE.

2. CG MADE OPENING STATEMENT NOTING THAT WHILE AGENCY WOULD GET THROUGH 1978 AT SOME COST TO REFUGEES, FINANCIAL SITUATION FACING AGENCY IN 1979 WAS VERY SERIOUS. HE ASKED FOR ADCOMM VIEWS ON FY 79 FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS, POINTING OUT THAT ONE COMPLICATION FOR 79 WAS THAT USG CONTEMPLATING \$52 MILLION CONTRIBUTION BUT \$10 MILLION OF THIS SUM COULD BE DISBURSED ONLY IF OPEC COUNTRIES MATCHED CONTRIBUTION. THIS MADE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE 79 INCOME. CG THEN DESCRIBED PROPOSED REDUCTION OF FLOUR RATION IN 1979. HE ALSO NOTED COSTS OF HEADQUARTERS RELOCATION WOULD BE ABOUT \$2.5 MILLION TOTAL IN 1978 AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ABOUT \$3 MILLION IN 1979. NO ADCOMM MEMBER COMMENTED ON U.S. CONDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION.

3. REPLYING IN ARABIC AS REP OF ARAB COUNTRIES HOSTING REFUGEES, LEBANESE CHARGE GEORGE SIAM MADE LONG STATEMENT WHICH, WHILE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR UNRWA'S WORK, TOOK UNRWA TO TASK ON SEVERAL ISSUES. SOME OF THESE, SUCH AS DESIRE FOR SECTION IN CG'S REPORT ON ISRAELI CRIMES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND THAT DRAFT REPORT NOT BE SHOWN TO GOI, ARE HARDY PERENNIALS.

4. BUDGETARY SITUATION: SIAM OUTLINED TRADITIONAL ARAB POSITION THAT UNRWA MUST MAINTAIN BASIC SERVICES IT CREATED TO PROVIDE; REDUCTIONS IN RATIONS CAN NOT BE COUNTENANCED AND IT JOB OF CG AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE FUNDS. ARAB GOVERNMENTS REFUSED TO ACQUIESCE IN ANY CUTS IN SERVICES TO REFUGEES OR TO ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY OR CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH ACTIONS. U.S. DEL USED STATEMENT REFTEL SUPPORTING CG'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT. UK AND FRENCH DELS ALSO SUPPORTIVE OF CG ACTIONS GIVEN FINANCIAL STRINGENCIES. UK NOTED IT WOULD ATTEMPT TO INCREASE ITS UNRWA CONTRIBUTIONS IN PROPORTION TO NEED.

JAPANESE DEL NOTED GOJ'S INCREASING CONTRIBUTION AND CALLED
ON CG TO MAKE RENEWED EFFORTS TO FIND NEW CONTRIBUTORS.

5. IN REPLY, CG TOOK NOTE OF ARAB VIEW, BUT STATED FLATLY
THAT RESPONSE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO UNRWA'S NEEDS
HAS BEEN SUCH THAT NO WAY AVOID REDUCTIONS OF SERVICES.
HE OUTLINED UNSUCCESSFUL APPROACHES TO ALL NON-CONTRIBUTING
UNGA MEMBERS AND TO OPEC.

6. HEADQUARTERS MOVE: ARAB STATEMENT CLAIMED UNGA RES
302 CALLED FOR UNRWA TO BE IN ITS AREA OF OPERATIONS;
UNRWA WAS USING SECURITY SITUATION IN BEIRUT AS "EXCUSE"
TO GET OUT OF AREA. ARABS REJECTED MOVE TO VIENNA FOR
FOUR REASONS: (1) WORK REQUIRED HQ TO BE IN AREA; (2)
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PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 COME-00 LAB-04
OES-09 AGRE-00 STR-07 /162 W
-----057258 010223Z /62

R 310653Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7485
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AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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CORRECTED COPY - PARA 9 LINE ONE ADDED

SPLITTING OFFICES BETWEEN AMMAN AND VIENNA RESULTED IN EXTRA EXPENSES TAKEN FROM REFUGEE SERVICES; (3) ESTABLISHMENT IN VIENNA WOULD REQUIRE STAFF SALARY AND COST OF LIVING INCREASES; AND (4) CG DID NOT CONSULT WITH ALL ARAB STATES ON MOVE. ARAB STATES THEREFORE REQUESTED "CANCELLATION" OF TRANSFER AND CALLED ON ADCOMM TO RECOMMEND A RETURN AND CONSOLIDATION OF HQ IN ME, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEE DISAPPROVAL OF MOVE AND THEIR FEAR OF "NEGATIVE RESULTS" OF TRANSFER. (FYI: ARAB POSITION FOR ADCOMM ESTABLISHED WITH PARTICIPATION OF PLO REPS ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT ATTEND MEETING).
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7. CG RESPONDED THAT HE KNEW OF NO UNGA REQUIREMENT THAT UNRWA HQ BE IN AREA. HE, HOWEVER, SHARED VIEW IT SHOULD BE, AND HAD TRIED FOR SEVEN WEEKS TO WORK OUT SUCH A RELOCATION. APPROPRIATE FACILITIES WERE NOT AVAILABLE. IF THE NEED FOR UNRWA CONTINUED, CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO RETURN IF FACILITIES AND SPACE AVAILABLE. U.S. DEL USED CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE REFTEL ON MOVE INCLUDING SUGGESTION OF CONSIDERATION BY UN WORKING GROUP ON UNRWA FINANCES. CG SAID HE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO THIS. OTHER DELS DID NOT COMMENT ON IDEA. FRENCH DEL REGRETTED MOVE OUT OF AREA, BUT BELIEVED IT SHOULD NOT AFFECT OPERATIONS AND IMPLICITLY SUPPORTED CG. UK DEL EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF FACTORS LEADING TO MOVE, STRESSED HQ SHOULD BE IN AREA IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, BUT EMPHASIZED IMPORTANT THING WAS GETTING SETTLED, AND TO WORK TO REALIZE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES CLAIMED BY CG.

8. REQUIRED LETTER TO CG FROM ADCOMM DRAFTED IN MEETING OF U.S., EGYPTIAN, JORDANIAN AND FRENCH DELS:
BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED TEXT: QUOTE:

- IN ITS MEETING HELD IN AMMAN ON 29 AUGUST 1978, THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON UNRWA CONSIDERED THE DRAFT REPORT WHICH YOU INTEND TO SUBMIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION ON THE AGENCY'S SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD 1 JULY 1977-30 JUNE 1978 AND THE REMARKS MADE THEREON BY ITS MEMBERS.

- THE COMMISSION NOTES THAT YOU HAVE AGREED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE REMARKS MADE BY THE MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE MADE BY THE ARAB HOST STATES, WHEN PREPARING YOUR REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ITS FINAL

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FORM.

- THE COMMISSION EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN FOR THE CONTINUING BUDGET DEFICIT FACING THE AGENCY, AND WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AS REPRESENTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, TO FIND A SOLUTION FOR THIS RECURRING PROBLEM. THIS SOLUTION SHOULD ENABLE UNRWA TO PROVIDE THE FULL RANGE OF ITS SERVICES TO ALL THOSE ENTITLED PERSONS AMONG THE PALESTINE REFUGEES.
- THE COMMISSION EXPRESSED ITS REGRET THAT A PART OF THE UNRWA HEADQUARTERS HAS BEEN RELOCATED FROM THE AREA OF ITS ACTIVITIES. THE COMMISSION STATED ITS PREFERENCE THAT THE UNRWA HEADQUARTERS BE CONSOLIDATED WITHIN THE AREA OF ITS OPERATIONS. THE COMMISSION REQUESTS THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL TO KEEP THIS QUESTION UNDER STUDY WITH A VIEW TO RELOCATION TO THE AREA OF OPERATIONS WHEN FEASIBLE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSION.
- THE COMMISSION WOULD LIKE TO STATE ITS COMMENDATION AND APPRECIATION FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL AND HIS STAFF IN THEIR PERFORMANCE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF UNRWA, DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES CONFRONTING THEM DURING THE YEAR COVERED BY THE REPORT. UNQUOTE.

END UNCLASSIFIED TEXT.

9. COMMENT: EMBASSY CONSULTED IN ADVANCE WITH UK CHAIRMAN AND CG MCELHINEY. LATTER HAD NO PROBLEM WITH U.S. POSITION. BEFORE MEETING MCELHINEY TOLD CHARGE ARABS HAD NOT EVEN RAISED HQ MOVE IN SPECIAL MEETING WITH THEM BEFORE ADCOMM. THAT FACT, AND PRO FORMA NATURE OF ADCOMM REMARKS IN WHICH THEY DID NOT CALL FOR IMMEDIATE RELOCATION, TOGETHER WITH RESTRAINT AND GENERALLY FRIENDLY TONE OF ADCOMM MAY INDICATE ARABS NOW WILLING LET ISSUE TAKE ITS PLACE AMONG OTHER RHETORICAL CHESNUTS. IN THIS
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CONNECTION, EGYPTIAN AND GOJ DELS TOLD U.S. DEL DURING DRAFTING SESSION THAT THEY PLEASED U.S. SMPATHETIC TO IDEA OF RELOCATION OF HQ IN ME. THEY DID NOT OBJECT - WHEN U.S. DEL NOTED THAT HE HAD ALSO SAID "WHEN FEASIBLE"

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PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 STR-07 COME-00 LAB-04
OES-09 AGRE-00 EB-08 /162 W
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R 310653Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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AND "WELL PLANNED AND BUDGETED IN ADVANCE" AND, IN
RESPONSE TO QUESTION, CONFIRMED THAT ARAB REMARKS DID NOT
MEAN RETURN TO ME SHOULD BE IMMEDIATE.SUDDARTH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, MEETINGS, COMMISSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1537000
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNRWA ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING (ADCOMM), - AUGUST 29, 1978
TAGS: PORG, SREF, XF, JO, US, UNRWA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/87af8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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